consultation with the Life Insurance Corporation of India but the same has not been found feasible because the LIC has no machinery to ensure compulsory collection of the insurance premium in this regard. If the employer defaults in payment of the insurance premium then the LIC cannot be held liable for payment of gratuity as per the provisions of the Act. As such the requisite purpose is unlikely to be served by enforcement of Section 4A.

Repeal of section 63 of ESI Act

949. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Employees State Insurance Corporation in its meeting held on 24.2.93 and chaired by him passed a resolution requesting Government to repeal Section 63 of the ESI Act, 1948;

(b) whether Government have accepted the resolution, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in the same meeting resolution No. 2 was passed requesting Government for rectification of condition laid down in regulation (iii) of regulation 99-A of ESI regulations 1950, whether this has been accepted and implemented, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the resolution No. 3 in the same meeting appealed to Government for contribution to ESIC Fund; and

(e) whether it has been agreed to by Government, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) to (e) The issues relating to repealment of Section 63 of the ESI Act and Regulation 99-A of the ESI (General) Regulation, 1950 and provision for contribution of the Central Government towards the ESI Fund were raised by some members of the ESIC in its meeting held on 24.2.93. As the issues involved amendment of the ESI Act, the Corporation decided to refer them to Central Government for examination. The matter has since been examined. It is neither considered desirable to repeal Section 63 of the ESI Act nor modify the conditions specified in Regulation 99-A of the ESI (General) Regulation, 1950 because any such step will result in misuse of the benefits under the ESI Scheme.

The ESI Scheme is mainly a self-financing scheme. At present the scheme has got adequate fund and is financially viable on its own. As such no contribution from the Central Government to the ESI Scheme is considered necessary.

Levels of employment and unemployment in the country

950. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to State:

(a) what are the current levels of employment and unemployment in the country;

(b) what are the sector-wise details thereof and the trends over the past three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that high-tech growth in the wake of liberalisation does not reduce employment or fails to provide additional employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The statement showing current levels of employment/unemployment and the

sector-wise details thereof is as under:

Statement

Estimates of Employment and Unemployment—1992—1995

(Million)

	March 93	March 94	March 95
(A) *Employment*			
(i) Agriculture	195.82	198·71	201.32
(ii) Non agriculture	112.62	115.44	120 03
Total Employment	308.44	314.15	321.35
(B) *Unemployment*	16.97	18.05	17.85

(c) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Plan. The employment strategy of the Plan envisages a high rate of growth of the economy combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. In the area of high-tech growth the following steps are being taken:

(i) Under the World Bank aided Vocational Training Project, a Hi-Tech Training Institute is proposed to be set up in the Country at a cost of approximately 65 Crores.

(ii) Funds are being made available for training and retraining of employees of Central Public Sector Undertaking for (a) ungradations of their skills (b) for redeployment to new technology areas.

(iii) Modernisation and expansion of Vocational Training systems in the Country is also being undertaken.

Supreme Court Judgement on Trade Unions

951. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the implications of the Supreme Court judgement in the case of Food Corporation of India Staff Union as reported in the Economic Times of 22 February, 1995.

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to adopt the guidelines and procedures prescribed by this order, especially the election through secret ballot to decide the representative union in all the Government corporations and undertakings:

(c) when it is going to implement the decision: and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thtrefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.